200 abolished.

795] There was no established church in independ-
798 ent Estonia. Full freedom of worship and conscience was guaranteed in the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia. All religious services were free to be held so long as they did not conflict with public order and morale.

162 According to the census of 1922, 78.3 per cent
795 of the population of Estonia was Lutheran, 19 per cent Greek Catholic, 0.5 per cent Baptist, 0.2 per cent Roman Catholic, 1 per cent belonged to other Christian churches (Methodist, Adventist, etc.) and 0.4 per cent was Jewish. To the Lutheran Church in Estonia belonged Estonians, Germans, and Swedes, whereas the membership of the Greek Orthodox Church was made up mainly of Russians and Estonians. The distribution of Lutherans by districts was almost

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

795 1937 had 851,060 members, 272,340 of whom paid their church fees regularly.

In the Greek Orthodox Church there were 212,764 members in 1934, the number of congregations being 158. Fifteen new churches were [874] built during independence. For training of the [795] priests a Greek Orthodox seminary was founded in the monastery of Petseri in 1933; higher education was given as before at Tartu University.

• 798 Relations between the different denominational churches in the Republic of Estonia were generally good and the Estonian people, being liberal in religious matters, had no serious differences among themselves or with other nationalities on religious grounds. The Estonians maintained amicable relations and cooperation also with the peoples of non-Christian faiths, the most numerous being the Jews.

793 among whom are the Bishop of the Evangelical
661 Lutheran Church, Dr. J. Kõpp (in Sweden) and Metropolitan Alexander (died in Sweden in 1944).

798 Cruel persecution of the whole religious life
793 in present-day Estonia is becoming clear by the following facts. Since the Theological Faculty at Tartu University was liquidated by the Communists in 1940 there is now no instruction for the training of clergy. After a few years Estonia will be without ministers entirely. Despite the present scarcity of pastors it is forbidden for pastors to minister to several congregations.

[661] Pastor A. Pähn who was appointed bishop in 1945 was soon deported to forced labor in Russia. For several years the Church was without a head. The Church now is ruled by the trustee of ecclesiastical affairs of the Communist Party; Rev. Jaan Kiivit was appointed Bishop. Sermons

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

298 793 at the present time are revised before pastors are allowed to deliver them and for ceremonies like weddings, christenings, funerals, and the like, the people must pay enormous taxes to the State, which average two to three months of a worker's salary.

659 795 The Estonian Orthodox Church was subjected to the Moscow patriarch in 1941. This supremacy was repudiated during the Nazi occupation, but was imposed again in 1945. The buildings which belonged to the churches were nationalized as well as the lands in the country owned by the churches, and even the cemeteries. For each square meter of their living quarters the pastors reportedly have to pay twenty times more than a worker does. Also, the congregations have to pay for their churches an exorbitant fee to the State. It is rumored also that the churches